

Human Services Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly  
Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 284  
March 9, 2022

To Co-chairs Senator Moore and Representative Abercrombie and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Christine Halfar and I am a resident of Danbury. I am writing in support of SB 284: An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status.

SB 284 expands medical assistance under the HUSKY program to age 18 regardless of immigration status. As such it is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the health care we all need and deserve. However, it should instead cover Connecticut residents of all ages that qualify for HUSKY and Medicaid programs, regardless of immigration status.

Health care is a human right. Many in the undocumented community are blocked from accessing health coverage (and often healthcare itself) in CT. They cannot apply to AccessHealth CT's health plans, have limited access to HUSKY, and private insurance companies are either too expensive or reject applications without social security numbers. Consequently, they seek piecemeal care from urgent care centers, go into overwhelming medical debt, or worse, have their conditions deteriorate until they are life-threatening. We can no longer allow that to happen in CT.

Please support SB 284, expand it further to include immigrants of all ages, and send it to the House and Senate for a vote.

Thank you.

Christine Halfar  
8 Settlers Hill Road  
Danbury CT 06811

